

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to urge you not to allow the merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. Although I am not a DIRECTV customer, I believe the merger will limit video and broadband choices for consumers like me because the combined company will increase fees and give poor service. I am a unhappy customer of EchoStar because of I paid for an annual subscription of \$242 and found out 9 months later that EchoStar did not change my account to annual from a monthly service plan. This caused me to lose 2 months service that I paid for in Jan. 2002. EchoStar refused to honor the annual service agreement and said they would pass on a rate increase that just went into effect. They were not concerned about my complaint and kept repeating they did not change my account and would not correct their error. I am looking to file a complaint with the Better Business Bureau.

The combined company will have no competition in the satellite dish providers and will not have any incentive to give fair treatment and good customer service and I could not go to another provider of satellite service if problems cannot be resolved.

I just recently received broadband service in a small town by BellSouth Telephone and have broadband access to the Internet, and believe the EchoStar and Hughes merger will not improve bringing broadband to small areas. DSL service is better and I know it has had a slow rollout but BellSouth is working on expanding service and I believe other telephone companies are investing in upgrading their networks.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

DANIEL JOHNSON
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COLUMBUS, MS 39702